

SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR THE COPY-PROTECTED DISTRIBUTION OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A peer-to-peer system for distributing electronic documents in which each peer computer is configured for receiving operating sequence command data, and for accessing an electronic document over a network by downloading, via at least two separate downloads, a plurality of data segments that are associated with an electronic document and that represent an encrypted form of the document. The document is encrypted by the effect of the operating sequence command data determining the order of the data segments, and the data segments are not usable by a user as downloaded. At least one of the downloads is from the second computer and at least one of the downloads is from a third computer. The system is further configured for accessing reconstruction data over the network and for using the reconstruction data and the encrypted form of the document to make the document available for use in a suitable decrypted form.